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Whittaker's Improved Pinnock's Catechisms.

CATECHISM

OF THE

HISTORY OF ENGLAND,

FROM

ITS EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE
PRESENT TIME.

**REVISED AND ADAPTED FOR THE SCHOOLS OF THE DOMINION OF
CANADA, AND BROUGHT DOWN TO THE PRESENT STATE
OF HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE,**

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ST. JOHN, N. B.
PUBLISHED BY J. & A. McMILLAN,
78 PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.

[569]

Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada,
in the Year 1869, by
J. & A. McMillan, in the Office of the Minister of Agriculture.

C A T E C H I S M

OF THE

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAPTER I.

The Ancient Britons.

Question 1. What was the origin of the Ancient Britons ?

Answer. They came at various times from different parts of the continent of Europe ; but the precise time when the first settlement took place is unknown.

2. By what names were the islands known to the ancients ?

England was called *Britannia* or *Albion*, Scotland *Caledonia*, Wales *Cambria*, and Ireland *Hibernia*.

3. What races inhabited them ?

England and Wales were peopled by the Britons, Hibernia by the Irish, and Caledonia by the Picts and Scots. All these were Celtic races and probably came from the opposite coasts of France, then called *Gaul*.

4. What was the general character of the Britons ?

They were a brave and warlike people, tall and robust : they stained their bodies with a seaweed called *woad*, which defended them from the cold, and gave them a fierce appearance in battle.

5. What was their usual dress ?

The chiefs wore a plaid, which descended from the waist, and their ornaments were chains and rings of gold—but the ruder tribes had no other covering than the skins of wild beasts, and their uncovered limbs were painted with figures of plants and animals.

6. Describe their habitations.

They were a sort of huts, sometimes formed of boughs in the manner of arbors, and sometimes of mud and clay, according to the season of the year, and generally covered with turf.

7. What were their towns and villages ?

They consisted of a number of these huts, commonly situated in woods for the convenience of hunting, the favorite and necessary diversion of the time. Indeed woods and marshes covered most of the land.

8. Did they remain stationary or wander about ?

They formed encampments according to the season of the year : in summer they lived in the most fertile valleys, which afforded the best pasture and water for their cattle ; in winter they removed to the hilly parts, as being drier and more healthy.

9. What was their usual diet ?

Milk and the flesh of the beasts killed in hunting : their common drink was water : but the tribe opposite Gaul (called the Belgæ), who were more civilized than the rest, tilled the land, understood the art of making bread, and traded with the Gauls.

10. What was their government ?

Patriarchal—the head of the family being answerable to the neighboring tribes for the conduct of the family.

11. What were the several orders of the Britons ?

They were divided into three classes, answering to our nobility, clergy, and common people—the last being little better than slaves to the others.

12. What was their religion ?

Heathenism of the worst kind, for they sometimes offered human sacrifices to their false gods. It was called Druidism.

13. Why ?

Because their priests were called Druids. These had great power over the minds of the people, who looked upon them with great reverence. They worshipped in groves of oak, which tree, as well as the mistletoe (which grows upon it) they held in high esteem.

14. What other offices did they discharge besides that of priests ?

Some of them, called *bards*, composed songs in honor of their heroes ; and others, called *vates*, or prophets, spent their time in studying nature, and indeed engrossed what little science was then known.

CHAPTER II.

Roman Britain.

15. Who first invaded Britain ?

The Romans, under Julius Cæsar, 55 years before Christ.

16. Did the Britons oppose the Romans ?

Yes ; and several battles ensued ; but the Britons being defeated were compelled to sue for peace. Yet, after a short campaign Cæsar was obliged to return into Gaul.

17. Did Cæsar come back to England ?

Yes ; in the following summer, with a great increase of force, an army of 20,000 foot, a considerable body of horse, and a fleet of 800 ships.

18. Who was the commander of the British forces in the time of Julius Cæsar ?

Cassivelaunus, King of the Trinobantes.

19. Did the Britons oppose the second landing of Cæsar ?

Yes ; but the contest was vain ; for Cæsar advanced into the country, burnt Verulam, the capital of Cassivelaunus, and forced the Britons to submit to a yearly tribute ; after these achievements he again withdrew his forces to the continent, and the Britons remained in quiet nearly a century.

20. Who next undertook to conquer Britain ?

Claudius Cæsar, the fourth emperor of Rome ; but he did not complete his purpose.

21. What British king made a noble stand against him ?

Caractacus, though he was at last taken captive, and carried to Rome.

22. What was his exclamation when led in triumph through Rome ?

“ How is it possible that a people possessed of so much magnificence at home, should envy me an humble cottage in Britain ? ”

23. What British queen opposed the Romans with great personal valor ?

Boadicea, queen of the Iceni (the inhabitants of Norfolk and Suffolk), but she was at last defeated, and in one great battle, A. D. 61, lost 80,000 of her men. To avoid the insults of the Romans, she poisoned herself.

24. Did the Romans by this victory, completely conquer the British.

No; Britain was not completely conquered till some years later in the reigns of Titus and his successors, by Agric'ola and Severus, who introduced the arts and sciences of the Romans. It was Agric'ola who defeated the celebrated Gal'gacus on the Grampian hills, when he made peace with the Caledonians.

25. On what occasion did the Romans build the famous wall from Carlisle to Newcastle?

To prevent the incursions of the Picts from Scotland.

26. Who built the great wall from the Forth to the Clyde, and for what purpose?

It was built by the Roman Emperor Seve'rus, and for the same purpose as the wall above mentioned.

27. How long was it after that time before the Romans completely abandoned this country?

Two hundred years afterwards, A. D. 408; their empire being much on the decline, they were not able to preserve so distant a province.

28. How many years were the Britons subject to the Roman power?

About 400 years.

29. Did the Roman conquest benefit Britain?

Greatly. The people were improved in dress, manner of warfare, and tillage; and were taught Christianity, but by whom is not known.

CHAPTER III.

The Saxon Heptarchy.

30. What people took advantage of the abject state of the Britons when the Romans withdrew their forces?

The Picts and Caledo'nians, the ancient inhabitants of Scotland, who ravaged and desolated the country, merely for a supply of their temporary wants.

31. To whom did the Britons apply for aid to assist them in repelling their invaders?

The Britons first applied to the Romans, but without success; they afterwards solicited succour and protection from the Saxons, who complied with the request.

32. Who were the Saxons ?

A people of Saxony, in the north of Germany.

33. When did the Saxons first send an army to assist the Britons, and under what commanders ?

They first sent an army in the year 450, commanded by Hengist and Horsa, two brothers who were highly renowned for their valor, and said to be descended from Woden their principal deity.

34. Were the Saxons successful against the Scots ?

Yes ; but they had no sooner discomfited them, than they turned their thoughts to the reduction of the Britons ; and, receiving large reinforcements of their countrymen, they reduced England under their power, and founded the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy.

35. Did all the Britons submit to the Saxon power ?

No ; many of them rather than submit to their conquerors, retired into Wales, where they were sheltered by the inaccessible mountains of that country, and some crossed to Armorica in N. W. France, called hence Brittany.

36. What is the meaning of the word Heptarchy ?

It is derived from two Greek words, signifying seven and chief ; hence it is applied to the Saxon power in England under the rule of seven kings.

37. What part of Great Britain did the Saxon Heptarchy include ?

That part of Great Britain called England, and S. E. Scotland. The Britons formed the kingdoms of Strathclyde (in S. W. Scotland), Cambria, N. Wales, S. Wales, Man, and Cornwall.

38. Name the several kingdoms of the Heptarchy, and by whom they were founded.

Their names were :

Capitals.

Kent, founded by Hengist,..... Canterbury.

Sussex,..... Ælla,..... Chichester.

Wessex,..... Cerdic,..... Winchester.

Essex,..... Erchenwin,.... London.

Northumberland, .. Ida and Ælla, .. York.

East Anglia,..... Uffa..... Dunwich.*

Mercia,..... Cridda,..... Leicester.†

* On the Suffolk coast, now buried beneath the sea.

† Pronounce *Lester*.

39. Who were the most renowned defenders of the Britons against the Saxons ?

Ambrosius, and the famous king Arthur ; the latter was killed in battle about the year 542.

40. Did the Saxon princes continue long united ?

No ; in a short time they disputed about their several rights, and, after a series of wars, the whole of the Heptarchy became subject to the power of Egbert, king of Wessex, who caused himself to be crowned at Winchester by the title of King of England, A. D. 827, or 400 years after the first arrival of the Saxons in Britain ; and thus was laid the foundation of the kingdom of England.

41. What religious changes took place during the Heptarchy ?

The Saxons when they came to Britain were pagans and pirates ; but about A. D. 600, a missionary from Rome, named Augustine, restored christianity in Britain.

42. Did not the country now change its name ?

Yes ; it now began to be called England, from the Anglo-Saxons. The Saxons called Cambria Wales, a word meaning in Saxon " foreigners."

CHAPTER IV.

The early Saxon Kings.

43. Enumerate the English lines of Kings.

The Saxon, Danish, Norman, Plantagenet, Tudor, Stuart, and the line of Hanover or Brunswick.

44. How many sovereigns of each line ?

Seventeen Saxons, three Danes, four Normans, fourteen Plantagenets, five Tudors, six Stuarts, and six of the line of Brunswick.

45. Who was the first king of England ?

Egbert, as observed in the last chapter.

46. What people ravaged the coast of Britain during the reign of Egbert ?

The Danes, but they were frequently defeated.

47. Who succeeded Egbert ?

His son Eth'elwolf, A. D. 838, during whose feeble reign the Danes often returned, and continued their depredations with but little interruption.

48. How long did Eth'elwolf reign, and when did he die? He reigned twenty years, and died A. D. 857.

49. What remarkable event happened in Scotland during the reign of Eth'elwolf?

In this reign the Picts, so formidable heretofore to the southern Britons, were entirely extirpated by their neighbors the Scots, after a long and terrible war between them.

50. What part of Scotland did the Picts inhabit?

Scotland was divided into two parts, one called the Highlands, and the other the Lowlands: the Picts inhabited the latter.

51. To whom did Eth'elwolf leave his dominions and royal power?

To his second son, Eth'elbert: after him to his third son, Eth'elred, and then to Alfred, his youngest son; who all in their turns succeeded to the crown.

52. What became of Eth'elbald, the eldest son?

While Eth'elwolf was at Rome, Eth'elbald entered into a conspiracy to dethrone his father, and seize the kingdom; and he made so great a party, that Eth'elwolf was obliged to give up to him the kingdom of Wessex, and to rest content with that of Kent for himself.

53. How long did Eth'elbald reign before his father's death, and how long after?

Two years before his death, and two and a half after his death.

54. Did any thing occur worthy of remark in the reign of Eth'elbert?

Nothing except the incursions of the Danes.

55. What happened in the reign of Eth'elred I.

The Danes made themselves masters of Northumberland, and several other parts of England, but were strongly opposed by Eth'elred, who unfortunately received a mortal wound in a battle he fought with them, in the sixth year of his reign. He was succeeded by Alfred the Great.

56. When did Alfred succeed to the crown of England?

In the year 872, when the Danes were in the very heart of his dominions, and all the sea-ports were filled with their fleets.

57. Did Alfred give them battle ?

Yes ; and after many engagements he at length received so severe a defeat that he was obliged to dismiss his followers, and seek for safety in flight and concealment.

58. Whither did Alfred retire.

To the little island of Athelney, in Somersetshire, a few miles below Taunton. Here he remained, until he learned that the Danes had grown negligent from success.

59. What did Alfred then do ?

He disguised himself as a harper or minstrel, and having entered the Danish camp, he made his observations, returned to his friends, assembled his troops, and completely routed the enemy.

60. What became of those who escaped ?

They fled to a castle, but were soon compelled to surrender to Alfred ; who pardoned them on condition that they and their leader, Guthrum, should embrace Christianity ; to which they consented, and Alfred conferred on Guthrum the government of East Anglia and Northumberland.

61. What followed this victory ?

Alfred was once more seated upon the throne, where he proved himself, with scarcely any exception, the best king that ever reigned.

62. Relate the remarkable events of Alfred's reign besides his defeating the Danes ?

He founded the University of Oxford ; divided England into shires, hundreds, and tythings ; established a national militia ; encouraged learning and learned men : invented a way of measuring time by candles, which were made to burn eight hours each, there being at this period no clocks or watches ; and made the navy very respectable.

63. How long did Alfred reign ?

He reigned a little over twenty-nine years, and died at Oxford, A. D. 900.

CHAPTER V.

The later Saxon Kings.

64. Who succeeded Alfred the Great ?

His son, called Edward the Elder, who fought several battles with the Danes, and completely routed them ; he

afterwards marched against the Welsh, over whom he gained a decisive victory, and compelled the Welsh king, Rees ap Madoc, to sue for peace, and promise to pay an annual tribute for the future.

65. For what else is he famous?

As the founder of Cambridge University. He was succeeded by his son Athelstan.

66. Did Athelstan perform any act worthy of notice?

Yes; he obtained a great victory over the Danes in Northumberland, after which he reigned in tranquility, being regarded as one of the ablest kings of those times. He died in the year 941, and was succeeded by his half-brother, Edmund I.

67. What events happened in the time of Edmund?

Soon after Edmund began to reign, the Danes revolted, and recovered Northumberland, Cumberland and Mercia; but these places were retaken by Edmund.

68. What was the manner of Edmund's death?

He was stabbed at a feast in Gloucester [pronounce *Gloster*] by Leolf, a robber, whom he had sentenced to banishment. He was succeeded by his brother Edred, A. D. 946.

69. What events happened in this reign?

The Danes, according to their custom upon the accession of a new king, revolted, and gained over to their side Malcolm, king of Scotland, but Edred marched against them, and obliged Malcolm to sue for peace, and to renew his homage for the lands which he held in England.

70. What churches and monasteries did Edred rebuild?

He rebuilt the monasteries of Glastonbury, Croyland, and Abingdon.

71. How long did he reign?

He reigned nine years, died in 955, and was succeeded by Edwy the son of Edmund.

72. What event happened in the reign of Edwy?

In the reign of Edwy, Dunstan, a proud abbot, who pretended to be a saint, raised a faction against him, and became so powerful, that Edwy was obliged to divide the kingdom with his brother Edgar. He died after a reign of about four years, and was buried at Winchester.

73. By whom was Edwy succeeded ?

By his brother Edgar, A. D. 959, whose reign was one continued calm, without any wars or commotions ; this was owing to his agreement with Dunstan and the powerful monks, and to his vast preparations both by sea and land, so that none dared to attack him.

74. What triumphs did he obtain ?

By the mere terror of his name he compelled the kings of Wales, Ireland, and the Isle of Man, to acknowledge him as their sovereign.

75. What rapacious animals infested England in the time of Edgar, and how did he destroy them ?

Wolves ; and to extirpate them, Edgar changed the tribute which the Welsh used to pay in money, into so many wolves' heads, to be paid every year. This expedient in a few years, effectually cleared the country, and there have been no wolves in England since.

76. What other particulars relate to Edgar ?

He encouraged foreigners to settle in England ; reigned sixteen years, died A. D. 976, and was interred at Glastonbury.

77. By whom was he succeeded ?

By his son Edward the Martyr, who was murdered at the instigation of his mother-in-law Elfrida, after reigning three years and a half.

78. By whom was Edward succeeded ?

By his half-brother, Eth'elred II., the second son of Edgar and Elfri'da.

79. What events happened in this reign ?

In this reign the Danes again invaded England ; they at first landed near Southampton, A. D. 981, and for ten years afterwards there was nothing but plunderings, conflagrations, murders, and every imaginable misery.

80. What did Eth'elred do to prevent the depredations of the Danes ?

He purchased their forbearance with great sums of money, and made an alliance with Richard the Second, duke of Normandy, by marrying Emma, sister to that prince.

81. What barbarous act did Eth'elred commit to rid himself of the Danes ?

All the Danes who resided in England, except those in East Anglia and Mercia, were, by his orders, massacred in one day, the festival of St. Brice, Nov. 13th, 1002.

82. What did Sweyn, king of Denmark, do when he heard of this bloody act ?

He declared he would never rest till he had avenged so monstrous an outrage ; and thereupon equipping a fleet of 200 ships, he invaded the country, not for plunder as before, but to destroy it with fire and sword.

83. What was the result of this Danish expedition ?

Sweyn soon arrived in England, made great havoc among the English, obliged them to pay him a large sum of money, and after a long struggle, compelled Eth'elred to take refuge in the court of his brother-in-law, Richard, duke of Normandy, 1013.

84. Did Eth'elred ever return to England ?

Shortly after, Sweyn dying, the nobility invited Eth'elred to return ; but he did not long enjoy the throne, for Canute, the successor of Sweyn, proved to be as powerful an enemy as his predecessor.

85. How long did Eth'elred reign ?

Thirty-seven years ; he died in 1016, and was succeeded by his son Edmund ; sometimes called Edmund Ironside, on account of his hardy valor.

86. What events happened in this reign ?

Numerous contentions between the English and the Danes under Canute : who at last consented to divide the kingdom.

87. What was the character of Edmund ?

This prince, during his short reign, exhibited proofs of courage, fortitude, and prudence.

88. State his death, and where he was interred.

He was treacherously murdered at Oxford, after a very short reign, and interred at Glastonbury ; and thus made way for the succession of Canute, the Dane, to the crown of England.

CHAPTER VI.

Of the Danes in England.

89. What were the names of the Danish kings who reigned in England?

Canute the Great, Harold I., and Hardicanute.

90. Who succeeded Edmund Ironside?

Canute the Great, who was proclaimed king of England in the year 1017. He divided England into four parts; namely, Mercia, Northumberland, East Anglia and Wessex; and made the government of England such, that every person should be treated alike.

91. Relate a remarkable anecdote that is recorded of that prince.

While walking by the sea-side at Southampton, attended by some of his courtiers, he became disgusted at the extravagant flattery of some who compared Canute to God himself; to convince them of their impiety, he ordered a chair to be placed on the sand opposite the approaching tide, and said, "O sea, thou art under my jurisdiction, I command thee to come no farther, nor dare to wet thy sovereign's feet!"

92. What followed this pompous command?

The tide coming in as usual, he thence took occasion to let his base flatterers know, that none but the king of Heaven, whom the sea and land obey, deserve the titles they impiously bestowed upon him. After which, it is said, he would never wear a crown, but caused it to be put on the head of a crucifix at Winchester. He introduced Christianity into Denmark.

93. How long did Canute reign?

Eighteen years. He died in the year 1035, and left three sons: Sweyn, who had Norway; Harold, England; and Hardicanute, Denmark.

94. What events happened in Harold's reign?

None of importance. He died in 1039, without issue, in the fourth year of his reign, and was succeeded by his brother Hardicanute.

95. What events happened in the reign of Hardicanute?

He brought with him to England fifty Danish ships; and, soon after he was crowned, he laid a heavy tax upon the nation to pay his fleet, which he sent back to Denmark.

96. Did the nation quietly submit to this tax?

No; the people of Worcester [pronounce *Wooster*] opposed it with great violence, and two of the persons employed to collect it were killed; which so incensed the king, that he sent his forces against Worcester, who burnt it to the ground.

97. What was the general character of Hardicanute, and how long did he reign?

He was brutally cruel and vindictive, and infamous for gluttony and drunkenness; he died suddenly as he was carousing at the wedding of a Danish lord at Lambeth.

98. How did the English behave at his death?

They rejoiced; and for several centuries after, they observed the day of his death, June 8th, as a holiday, by the name of Octide.

99. In what year did he die?

In the year 1041, and in the second year of his reign. With him ended the monarchy of the Danes in England, after it had lasted about twenty-six years: though the invasions of these barbarians had harrassed the kingdom 250 years.

CHAPTER VII.

Saxon Line Restored.

100. Who succeeded Hardicanute?

Edward the Confessor, son of Eth'elred and Emma; who had spent great part of his life in Normandy.

101. What events happened in the reign of Edward?

He abolished for ever the tax called Danegelt, which amounted to £40,000 a year, and had been levied for thirty-eight years.

102. Whom did he marry?

The daughter of Earl Godwin, an English nobleman of Saxon descent.

103. What events happened in the reign of Edward, besides those already mentioned?

Edward built Westminster Abbey ; he collected the Saxon laws and customs into one body, which were thence called by his name ; and he was the first monarch who touched for the king's evil.

104. By whom was Edward succeeded ?

By Harold the Second, son of Earl Godwin, who had all the qualifications requisite for forming a great prince.

105. What events happened in this reign ?

In this reign England was invaded by the Normans, under William the Conqueror, who obtained the crown by the famous battle of Hastings, which cost Harold his life.

106. Where did William the Conqueror land his forces when he came over from Normandy ?

At Pevensey, in Sussex, A. D. 1066. Thence he marched along the shore as far as Hastings, where, on the 14th Oct., was fought the battle above mentioned. There the brave Harold fell, after a turbulent reign of nine months and nine days. With him totally ended the empire of the Anglo-Saxons in England, which had begun in the person of Hengist, about 600 years before.

A TABLE

Of the Kings and Queens of England from the Conquest.

<i>The Norman Line.</i>		<i>The House of Lancaster.</i>	
	Reigned from		Reigned from
William I.	1066 to 1087	Henry IV.	1399 to 1413
William II.	1087 to 1100	Henry V.	1413 to 1422
Henry I.	1100 to 1135	Henry VI.	1422 to 1461
Stephen	1135 to 1154		
<i>The Plantagenets.</i>		<i>The House of York.</i>	
		Edward IV.	1461 to 1483
Henry II.	1154 to 1189	Edward V.	1483
Richard I.	1189 to 1199	Richard III.	1483 to 1485
John	1199 to 1216		
		<i>The House of Tudor.</i>	
Henry III.	1216 to 1272	Henry VII.	1485 to 1509
Edward I.	1272 to 1307	Henry VIII.	1509 to 1547
Edward II.	1307 to 1327	Edward VI.	1547 to 1553
Edward III.	1327 to 1377	Mary	1553 to 1558
Richard II.	1377 to 1399	Elizabeth	1558 to 1603

<i>The House of Stuart.</i>		<i>The House of Brunswick, or Hanover.</i>	
	Reigned from		Reigned from
James I.	1603 to 1625	George I.	1714 to 1727
Charles I.	1625 to 1649	George II.	1727 to 1760
[The Commonwealth.]		George III.	1760 to 1820
Charles II.	1660 to 1685	George IV.	1820 to 1830
James II.	1685 to 1688	William IV.	1830 to 1837
[The Revolution.]		Victoria	1837 <i>vis. reg.</i>
William III.	1688 to 1702		
Anne	1702 to 1714		

CHAPTER VIII.

THE NORMAN KINGS.

William the Conqueror.

107. Who was William the Conqueror ?

The natural son of Robert the First, duke of Normandy.

108. What is meant by the Norman Conquest ?

The Conquest of England by William the Norman.

109. What pretence had William to the sovereignty of England ?

He pretended that Edward, the last king of the Saxon line, during his stay in Normandy, whither he had been obliged to flee on account of the usurpation of the Danes, had, in gratitude for the favors he had received, promised him his kingdom ; which, at his death, William came over to claim.

110. When was William crowned King of England ?

On Christmas day, in the year 1066.

111. What were the principal events in the time of William the Conqueror ?

Domesday-book was compiled ; the curfew-bell established ; the four terms of law appointed ; the New Forest in Hampshire laid out ; and the feudal law introduced.

112. What was Domesday-book ?

An account of the value of every man's estate, and of cattle and servants upon it.

113. What was the curfew-bell ?

A bell ordered to be rung every night at eight o'clock, when the English were obliged to put out their fires and candles.

114. What was the feudal law ?

The law by which feuds or fiefs, the new division of land, were regulated ; the tenants were vassals to a superior lord, who was himself a vassal to the king. Instead of rent the vassals were obliged, upon the lord's summons, to follow his standard in war, to protect him in every danger, and to remain in the field for forty days at their own expense.

115. What invention took place in this reign ?

That of musical notes, by a Frenchman.

116. What was the character of William ?

He was a prince of great courage, capacity, and ambition ; politic, stern, and vindictive. His stature was rather low, but his body large and powerful, his constitution robust, and his bones and muscles so strong, that there was hardly a man of that age who could bend his bow or handle his arms.

117. What were the dominions of William ?

England and Normandy. He reigned in Normandy twenty-two years, and twenty-one in England. He died near Rouen, 1087.

William the Second, (Rufus.)

118. Who succeeded William the Conqueror ?

His second son, William Rufus, who in the thirteenth year of his reign was shot, by accident, as he was hunting in the New Forest, A. D. 1100. He was buried at Winchester.

119. What was his character ?

He was courageous almost to ferocity, and seems to have been endowed with very few virtues.

120. What were the remarkable events of his reign ?

The crusades, or holy wars, were set on foot ; the design of which was to recover the Holy Land, and especially Jerusalem, out of the hands of the Saracens. In 1089, William rebuilt London Bridge, raised a new wall round the Tower, and erected the famous hall at Westminster.

121. Why was he named Rufus ?

From his red hair and florid complexion.

Henry the First.

122. Who was the successor of William II. ?

Henry the First, named Beauclerc, or the Scholar, on account of his great learning. He was the youngest son of William the Conqueror.

123. Whom did he marry ?

Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, king of Scotland.

124. What event happened in the reign of Henry ?

His son, Prince William, was lost in the "Blanche Nef," at the Ras de Catte, in their passage from Normandy, by the unskilfulness of the pilots. This affected Henry so deeply that he never smiled afterwards.

125. What was his character, and when did he die ?

He was an excellent monarch for the age in which he lived, of noble presence, valiant and politic. He died A. D. 1135, having reigned thirty-five years.

Stephen.

126. Who succeeded Henry the First ?

Stephen of Blois, nephew of Henry, and son of Adela, the fourth daughter of William the Conqueror. Though Stephen had taken the oath of allegiance to Maud, or Matilda, the daughter of Henry the First, in case he died without male issue, he found means to supplant her, and place the crown upon his own head.

127. What remarkable event happened in the reign of Stephen ?

During his reign, England was one continued scene of bloodshed and horror, from the contest of Maud, Stephen, and the barons. At length on the death of Stephen's only son, Eustace, it was agreed, that Stephen should enjoy the crown during his life ; and that at his death it should descend to young Henry, son of Maud.

128. How long did Stephen reign, and when did he die ?

He reigned eighteen years, and died in 1154, in the fiftieth year of his age.

129. What were the possessions of Stephen ?

England only, London now became its capital instead of Winchester.

CHAPTER IX.

THE LINE OF PLANTA'GENET.

Henry the Second.

130. Who succeeded Stephen ?

Henry Plantagenet,* the son of Maud and Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou.

131. What distinguished persons lived in this reign ?

The celebrated Fair Rosamond, daughter of Lord Clifford, who was mistress to Henry the Second. Poisoned by Queen Eleanor, her beauty and her fate have rendered her name famous. Also Thomas-a-Becket, a celebrated churchman, who had been raised from a mean station to the Archbishopric of Canterbury.

132. What were Henry's possessions ?

England, Normandy, Anjou, Guienne, Poitou, and Ireland, which he subdued.

133. How many children had Henry ?

Seven ; namely, Geoffrey, Henry, Richard, John, and three daughters ; the two younger sons succeeded to the throne.

134. When did Henry die ?

1189, in the fifty-seventh year of his age, and thirty-fifth of his reign. He established the circuits of the Judges. Henry was one of the ablest kings of his time.

Richard the First.

135. Who succeeded Henry the Second ?

His son Richard, surnamed Cœur de Lion, or the Lion Hearted.

136. What was the character of Richard ?

He was a man of great ability and wit, and full of the heroic valor of the times ; he went to Palestine, or the Holy Land, with the crusaders, and seemed to forget that he was king of England. Richard was the first who assumed the motto of " God and my right," and affixed it to his arms.

* The original name of this illustrious family was Martel ; they took the name Plantagenet from the branch of green broom (*Planta Genista*) which one of the first counts of Anjou had been enjoined to wear, as a penance for his crimes,

137. What action of Richard the First does history record most in favor of his generous mind ?

The pardon of his brother John, after repeated treasons ; when he said, " I forgive you, and I wish I could as easily forget your injuries as you will my pardon."

138. What occasioned Richard's death ?

He was shot at the siege of the castle of Châlons, in France, A. D. 1190.

John.

139. By whom was Richard succeeded ?

By his brother John, surnamed Sans-Terre, or Lackland.

140. What was the character of John ?

He appears to have been possessed of few good qualities, and to have been as unfortunate as he was weak. He was engaged in continual wars with the barons, and contests with the popes.

141. Of what wicked act was he accused ?

Of murdering his nephew Arthur, son of Geoffrey, the eldest son of Henry the Second, and lawful heir to the crown. Shakspeare has written the fine tragedy of " King John," on this circumstance.

142. How long did he reign, when did he die, and where was he interred ?

He reigned seventeen years, died 1216, and was buried in the cathedral of Worcester. John was the first who coined English money.

143. How many children had John ?

Five. Henry, his eldest son, succeeded him.

144. Who signed Magna Charta ?*

King John ratified this political charter at Runnymede, near Windsor: being obliged to do so by the barons.

145. What was Magna Charta ?

An act granting to the barons and citizens greater privileges than they had ever enjoyed before. By this act the severities of the feudal law were mitigated, and English

* *Magna* is a Latin word signifying *great*; *Charta* signifies a deed or written evidence of things done between two parties. (Pronounced *Karta*, but synonymous with *Charter*.)

freedom restored. In 1215, the first mayor and sheriffs of London took those titles.

Henry the Third.

146. Who succeeded John ?

His son, Henry the Third, who was born at Winchester.

147. What was his character ?

He was a weak monarch, of narrow genius, without courage or conduct ; partly, perhaps, occasioned by his succeeding to the throne so young, he being only nine years old when his father died.

148. For what was this long reign most famous ?

For the origin of the House of Commons. The king ruling feebly, the Earl of Leicester [pronounce *Lester*] rebelled and appealed to the common people, who now were for the first time represented in Parliament as well as the barons and clergy.

149. When was marriage first solemnized in churches ?

In the reign of Henry the Third. Magnifying glasses and magic lanthorns were also invented in this reign by Roger Bacon, a Friar, the most noted philosopher of that age.

150. What other improvements were introduced in the reign of Henry the Third ?

Cider, linen, and tapestry, were first made in England, and the mariner's compass is said to have been invented by the French or by the Venetians.

151. When was the inquisition established here ?

In the reign of this prince. Sanguinary persecution by fire, (except the Druidical) was little known in this island until the time of Henry IV.

152. What was the inquisition ?

A cruel court, composed of monks and friars, appointed to take cognizance of everything supposed to be heretical or contrary to the established religion, which was then Roman Catholic.

153. How many children had Henry ?

Nine ; but only four survived him. He was succeeded by his son Edward.

154. When did he die, and where was he interred ?

He died 1272, having reigned fifty-six years, and was interred in Westminster Abbey, near the shrine of Edward the Confessor.

Edward the First, (Longshanks.)

155. What was the character of Edward I., his son and successor ?

He was a brave and wise king. He subdued Wales, and annexed it to England, 1283 ; he carried on a war in Scotland with great success ; and he was careful to extend the commerce of his people.

156. Was not Edward cruel to the Jews ?

Yes ; not fewer than 15,000 were in his reign robbed of their effects, and banished the kingdom.

157. Where was Edward's eldest son born ?

At Caernarvon, in Wales, and at the age of seventeen he was invested with the principality of that country. From that time the king's eldest son has been styled Prince of Wales.

158. How long did Edward I. reign, and when and where did he die ?

He reigned thirty-four years, and died at Carlisle, 1307, aged sixty-eight years.

159. What were the improvements and discoveries in the reign of Edward the First ?

Geography and the use of the globes were introduced ; tallow candles and coals were first used in common ; wind-mills were invented ; and wine was sold only as a cordial in apothecaries' shops.

Edward the Second.

160. Who succeeded Edward the First ?

His son, Edward the Second, a weak prince, who was fond of favorites, and incapable of ruling well.

161. What was the principal event of the reign ?

The loss of Scotland, after it had been almost conquered by his father. Edward the First had executed Wallace, the first Scottish leader ; but the second, Robert Bruce, regained

all in the great victory over Edward II., at Bannockburn in 1314.

162. What other misfortunes befel Edward?

His foolish conduct estranged both his people and his Queen from him. By her orders he was cruelly murdered in Berkeley castle, A. D. 1327.

Edward the Third.

163. What was the character of Edward the Second's son and successor?

He was a wise king, and one of the most renowned monarchs that ever sat on the English throne.

164. How many children had Edward?

Nine; five sons and four daughters; the most celebrated was Edward, the eldest, called the Black Prince, from the color of his armor; he died before his father; the other sons were Lionel, duke of Clarence; Edmund, duke of York; John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster; and Thomas, duke of Gloucester.

165. What are the principal events that happened in his reign?

The battles of Crecy and Poitiers; the defeat of the Scots; the surrender of Calais to the English; and a great naval victory gained over the French off Sluys.

166. Describe the battle of Crecy.

In the year 1346, the famous battle of Crecy was fought between the French and English; the French army consisted of 100,000 men, out of which about 37,000 were slain, besides many prisoners, and the others put to flight. The English army consisted of only 30,000 men.

167. Who were the most celebrated among the slain?

The kings of Bohemia and Majorca. The crest of the king of Bohemia was three ostrich feathers, and his motto these German words—*Ich dien*, "I serve;" which the Prince of Wales, the Black Prince, adopted in memory of this great victory, and his successors have borne them ever since.

168. What other events happened in this reign?

The Order of the Garter was instituted, and English supplanted the Norman French in the law courts and schools.

In this reign lived the celebrated Wickliffe, the first reformer of religion. He translated the Bible into English in the next reign.

Reign of Richard the Second.

169. Who was Richard the Second ?

The son of Edward the Black Prince ; he was only eleven years old when he succeeded his grandfather, A. D. 1377.

170. What was his character ?

He was admired, while a boy, as having a good and open spirit, but when he grew up, he became weak and effeminate. He was deprived of his crown by Henry, duke of Lancaster, and murdered, or starved to death, in Pomfret Castle, A. D. 1400.

171. What events happened in the reign of Richard the Second ?

The principal were, an insurrection against the poll-tax, headed by Wat Tyler ; and the usurpation of Henry, duke of Lancaster.

172. To what did the usurpation of Henry give rise ?

To the numerous and fatal contests of the White and Red Rose, or houses of York and Lancaster.

173. When were cards invented ?

In the time of Richard the Second, for Charles the Sixth, king of France, called the Well-beloved ; he was insane the greater part of his reign ; and cards were invented to amuse him during the intervals of reason.

CHAPTER X.

HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

Henry the Fourth.

174. Who succeeded Richard the Second ?

Henry the Fourth, duke of Lancaster, surnamed Bolingbroke ; he was the eldest son of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward III. He was crowned in 1399, and ascended the throne upon the forced resignation of Richard, whose death at Pomfret soon followed.

175. What distinguished characters lived in this and the preceding reigns ?

Chaucer and Gower, both English poets ; and William of Wykham, bishop of Winchester.

176. What happened to the eldest son of Henry, when Prince of Wales ?

Sir William Gascoigne, the Lord Chief Justice, sent him to prison for contempt of his authority.

177. Relate the circumstances.

One of his dissolute companions having been brought before this magistrate for felony, Prince Henry, who was present, was so provoked at the issue of the trial, that he struck the judge in open court. Sir William, fully sensible of the reverence due to his authority, committed the prince to prison.

178. What did the king say when he heard of it ?

He exclaimed, " Happy is the king who has a subject endowed with courage to execute the laws upon such an offender ; and still more happy in having a son willing to submit to such a chastisement ! "

179. What other remarkable events happened in this reign ?

The defeat of the rebel family of Percy, at Shrewsbury, in which battle the Percies were assisted by the Scotch, under Douglas, and by the Welsh. Also the persecution of the Lollards, or followers of Wickliffe. (See 152.)

180. How many children had Henry ?

Six ; four sons and two daughters. He was succeeded by his eldest son Henry. He died of apoplexy at Westminster, 1413.

Henry the Fifth.

181. What was the character of Henry the Fifth ?

His valor was such that no danger could startle, and no difficulty overpower ; nor was his policy inferior to his courage. He was chaste, temperate, and modest, and without an equal in the art of war and government.

182. What was the principal event of his reign ?

The conquest of France, which he undertook as soon as he came to the throne. It was Henry who gained the celebrated victory of A'gincourt. No battle was ever more fatal to the French, from the number of princes and nobility slain.

and taken prisoners. Henry was afterwards declared Regent of France, and heir to the French monarchy.

183. How many children had the king ?

Only one, the Prince of Wales, who was not a year old in 1422, when his father died. The queen, after the death of Henry, married Sir Owen Tudor, a Welsh gentleman, who is said to have been descended from the princes of that country, by whom she had two sons.

Henry the Sixth.

184. How did this reign open ?

Henry being an infant, his uncles, the dukes of Bedford and Gloucester [pronounce *Gloster*] were made protectors, the former for France, and the latter for England.

185. What then occurred in France ?

A peasant girl named Joan of Arc, declared that she was divinely appointed to free France from the English, and after a most wonderful career at the head of the French army, succeeded in doing so ; though she herself was taken prisoner, and burnt at Rouen as a witch. Bedford died during the struggle, and finally only Calais remained to the English.

186. Whom did Henry marry ?

Margaret of Anjou, a woman of great spirit and beauty, who partly made up by her energy for her husband's feebleness of character in the civil wars which followed.

187. What wars were those ?

The famous Wars of the Roses. Henry's grandfather had usurped the crown, and the rightful heirs, the House of York, or White Rose, had been passed over. The head of that house, Richard, duke of York, now claimed the crown.

188. Did he succeed ?

After defeating the Lancastrians, (or House of the Red Rose,) at St. Albans and Northampton, he was in turn beaten and slain at Wakefield Green. The Earl of Warwick, however, who was the most powerful noble in England, took up the cause of his sons, and gained the crown for the eldest of them, who was crowned as Edward the Fourth. Warwick was hence called " the king maker."

189. What became of Henry and his family ?

Henry was imprisoned in the Tower, and probably murdered. Margaret was ransomed, and retired to France ; and their son, Prince Edward, was barbarously murdered at Tewkesbury, after a defeat there.

CHAPTER XI.

THE LINE OF YORK.

Edward the Fourth and Edward the Fifth.

190. What was the character of Edward IV. ?

He was brave, active and enterprising, but severe, revengeful, and luxurious.

191. What was the most memorable invention of this period ?

The art of printing was discovered in Germany, and introduced into England by Caxton, in the year 1471.

192. What strange event happened in his reign ?

The death of the Duke of Clarence, Edward's brother, whom he caused to be drowned in a butt of wine. The celebrated Jane Shore was mistress to this king.

193. How long did he reign ?

He reigned twenty-two years, and died 1483, leaving six children. The eldest, the Prince of Wales, succeeded him at thirteen years of age, as Edward V.

194. What was the character of this prince ?

As he came to the throne so young, and was either murdered or carried out of the kingdom, soon after his accession, his character cannot be known. Some say he was smothered in the Tower, with his brother, the duke of York, in 1483.

195. What effect on English History had the Wars of the Roses ?

These twelve battles and thirty years of civil war (1455 to 1485) retarded the progress of agriculture and civilization for the time ; but on the other hand they broke down the excessive power which the great nobles had enjoyed under the feudal system, and gave the finishing blow to the system itself. During the next two centuries we see two great powers in conflict—the power of the Commons and the prerogative of the Crown.

Richard the Third.

196. Who succeeded Edward the Fifth ?

Richard the Third, surnamed Crookback, duke of Gloucester. He was brother to Edward the Fourth, and appointed guardian to Edward the Fifth and his brother.

197. How long did he reign ?

Two years ; he was proclaimed king of England in 1483, and was killed at the famous battle of Bosworth, in Leicestershire, [pronounce *Lestershir*] contending for the kingdom with Henry, then Earl of Richmond, in 1485.

198. What was his character ?

He was the supposed murderer of his two nephews, and has generally been represented as a compound, both in mind and person, of cruelty and deformity. He nevertheless passed several excellent laws ; and as all the accounts given of him were written by his enemies, it is probable that many of the allegations against him are false, and all exaggerated.

CHAPTER XII.

THE LINE OF TUDOR.

Henry the Seventh.

199. Who succeeded Richard the Third ?

Henry the Seventh (Earl of Richmond), who was crowned on Bosworth-field, immediately after the battle. Henry was the son of Edmund Tudor, earl of Richmond, and of Margaret, a descendant from John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster. He, by marrying Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV., united the houses of York and Lancaster, and by that means put an end to the civil war.

200. What discoveries were made in this reign ?

America was discovered by Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa ; and a passage to the East Indies was discovered by the Portuguese.

201. What rebellions happened in this reign ?

One, by Lambert Simnel, which was speedily suppressed, and a second, more prolonged and dangerous, headed by Perkin Warbeck, who pretended to be the son of Edward the Fourth ; but the prudence and sagacity of Henry defeated these, and every other plot against the government.

202. How many children had Henry ?

Seven ; Arthur, who died before him ; Henry, his successor ; Margaret, Mary, and three others.

203. How long did he reign ?

He reigned twenty-three years, and died in 1509.

204. What were Henry's chief aims ?

To break the power of the nobles, and increase that of the crown ; to preserve peace, and keep a full treasury. He encouraged Cabot, a Venetian living in Bristol, to explore North America, and this mariner having sailed along its eastern shore, gave England the right of discovery to what is now British America. Henry founded the Royal Navy.

Henry the Eighth.

205. What was the character of Henry VIII. ?

Henry was learned, but impetuous and vain, obstinate, despotic, and cruel.

206. Relate the most remarkable events of his reign.

The Reformation was begun ; church registers were enacted to be kept ; and the famous battle of Flodden Field was fought, in which James the Fourth, king of Scotland, with the flower of his nobility, fell.

207. What is meant by the Reformation ?

By the Reformation is meant the reforming of the Christian religion from the errors of Popery, and reducing it nearer to its primitive purity.

208. Who made the first attack on the extravagant superstitions then prevailing ?

Martin Luther, a native of Isleben, in Germany.

209. Who were the other prominent Reformers at this time ?

Philip Melancthon, a Swiss, and fellow professor with Luther at the Saxon University of Wittenberg ; Ulric Zuingli, the leader of the Swiss ; Cranmer, of the English, and John Knox, of the Scotch Reformation.

210. What was the religion called which was professed in England before the Reformation ?

It was called the Roman Catholic ; and it is curious that Henry, who was declared by the Pope " Defender of the

Faith," for writing a tract against Luther, should be the first king to throw off the Romish yoke.

211. Who were the wives of Henry the Eighth?

1st. Catherine, who was his brother's widow, from whom he was divorced; 2nd. Anna Bo'leyn, who was falsely accused and beheaded; 3rd. Jane Seymour, who died in child-bed; 4th. Anne of Cleves, whom he disliked and divorced; 5th. Catherine Howard, who was beheaded; 6th. Catherine Parr, who survived him.

212. How many children had Henry the Eighth?

Three; Edward, Prince of Wales, by lady Jane Seymour—this Prince succeeded him; Mary, his daughter, by his first queen; and Elizabeth, daughter of Anna Bo'leyn.

213. What remarkable churchman lived in this reign?

Thomas Wolsey, who was the king's favorite in the former part of it, and was made Cardinal. His career resembled that of Thomas a Becket. Having offended Henry by opposing his divorce from Catherine and his change of religion, he died in disgrace.

214. Did not Henry act very tyrannically?

Yes, especially in religious matters—executing both Protestants and Roman Catholics. He put to death Sir Thomas More the Lord Chancellor, Bishop Fisher, the Earl of Surrey, Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, and many others.

215. What improvements were made in this reign?

Ship-building was improved; Wales represented in Parliament; many vegetables introduced from the Netherlands; the Bible first translated into English; Greek first taught at Oxford; the College of Physicians founded, and cotton thread invented.

Edward the Sixth.

216. Who succeeded Henry in 1547?

His son, Edward the Sixth, an amiable, learned and pious youth. His maternal uncle, the duke of Somerset, was made Protector, but was supplanted and executed by the bold and ambitious Duke of Northumberland, who persuaded Edward to transfer the crown from his sister Mary, because she was a Roman Catholic, to his cousin Lady Jane Grey (Nor-

thumberland's daughter-in-law), and was even suspected of causing Edward's death by poison A. D. 1553.

217. Did Northumberland succeed ?

No. Lady Jane Grey, after being Queen ten days, was deposed and beheaded, with her young husband, Lord Dudley, and the wicked Northumberland himself, by order of Mary, who now became Queen.

218. What improvements were made in this reign ?

The Reformation made further progress, and the Book of Common Prayer was drawn up. Many charitable institutions and public schools were founded, and trade opened with Archangel.

Mary I.

219. Who succeeded Edward VI. ?

His sister Mary, eldest daughter of Henry VIII.

220. What was the character of Mary ?

She was extremely bigoted to the Catholic religion ; and was also proud, imperious, and austere.

221. To whom was Mary married ?

To Philip the Second, king of Spain.

222. What are the most remarkable events in the reign of Mary ?

The persecution of the Protestants, great numbers of whom were burnt in Smithfield and elsewhere, as heretics, amongst the most remarkable were Archbishop Cranmer, and Bishops Latimer, Hooper, and Ridley. Calais, the last of the English possessions in France, was lost in this reign.

223. How long did Mary reign ?

About five years ; she died in 1558, and was succeeded by her sister Elizabeth.

Reign of Queen Elizabeth.

224. Who was Queen Elizabeth ?

The daughter of Henry the Eighth, by Anna Boleyn, and half-sister to Mary and Edward.

225. What was her character ?

She was a woman of great spirit, judgment, and address, but very vain and imperious ; she understood the dead and

living languages, made great proficiency in the sciences, and was well read in history ; but her putting Mary Stuart, queen of Scots, to death, is a great stain on her character.

226. Who was Mary, Queen of Scots ?

Daughter of James the Fifth, king of Scotland, and cousin of Elizabeth ; she was famed for her beauty and misfortunes.

227. How long was Mary prisoner in England ?

Eighteen years, and was at length beheaded in Fotheringay castle, in Northamptonshire.

228. What are the other principal events in the reign of Elizabeth ?

The destruction, in 1588, of the Spanish armada, intended for the conquest of England, and perhaps the largest fleet ever fitted out by any nation ; the success of the Reformation, a most important event, which fixed the present religious establishment of the country ; and the discovery of Virginia in America.

229. How long did Elizabeth reign ?

Queen Elizabeth reigned forty-four years ; she died 1603, aged seventy, and was succeeded by James the First of England, and Sixth of Scotland. England was prosperous at home and abroad during her reign.

230. What remarkable men now lived ?

William Shakespeare, the immortal dramatist, who wrote in this and the following reign, and Ben Jonson, another great writer of plays ; Spenser, the poet ; the Earls of Leicester and Essex (the Queen's favorites) as well as Sir Philip Sydney, soldiers ; Lord Burleigh and Sir F. Walsingham, her ministers ; and Raleigh, Drake, Hawkins and Frobisher, navigators.

231. Name some of the improvements of the time.

England now began to be the mistress of the sea. Drake was the first Englishman who circumnavigated the globe. Tobacco and potatoes were brought from America. Watches, clocks, telescopes and newspapers were invented. The whale and cod fisheries, the hardware, cutlery, and cotton manufactures were begun, the Poor Laws enacted, and the East India Company founded, while attempts were made to colonize North America, which however, were unsuccessful.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE STUARTS.

James the First of England, and Sixth of Scotland.

232. Who was James the First ?

The great-grandson of Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry the Seventh, who married James the Fourth of Scotland : he was the son of the unfortunate Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland. The crowns of England and Scotland were then united.

233. Relate the principal events of this reign.

The gunpowder plot, and the beheading of the celebrated Sir Walter Raleigh.

234. What was the gunpowder plot ?

A scheme of the Roman Catholics to blow up both houses of Parliament, by laying a train of gunpowder under them, when the king, princes, lords and commons should be assembled, Nov. 5, 1605.

235. How did the conspirators cause the powder to be placed under the parliament house ?

They had hired a cellar under the parliament house, under pretence of using it as a storehouse for coals. Here they placed thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, which they covered with coals and faggots ; and one Guy Faux, who was to set fire to the train, was taken in the cellar with a dark lantern, tinder-box and matches in his pocket.

236. In what manner was the plot discovered ?

By an anonymous letter sent, through private friendship, from one of the conspirators to Lord Monteagle, to prevent his going that day to parliament, and thus to avoid the dreadful catastrophe.

237. Who was Sir Walter Raleigh ?

A famous historian and navigator, and a favorite of Elizabeth.

238. How old was James, king of Scotland, when he succeeded to the English crown ?

Thirty-six years ; and he was twenty-two years king of England. He died A. D. 1625, aged fifty-eight years. He was crowned king of Scotland when only a year old,

239. What was the general character of his reign ?

Eminently tranquil and beneficial. The condition of the country was ameliorated : arts and sciences flourished. The Bible, as we have it now, was translated, and published under the royal authority.

240. What improvements were now made ?

The title of baronet was created, horse races established, the broad silk manufacture introduced, the circulation of the blood discovered, buildings began generally to be built of brick, and the first permanent English colonies were made in North America—at Jamestown, Virginia, (1607), at Plymouth, Massachusetts, (1620), and in Nova Scotia. James also settled a large Scotch colony in Ulster. Lord Chancellor Bacon, the greatest English philosopher, now lived and wrote. Tea was brought to England for the first time, during this reign.

Charles the First.

241. Who succeeded James I. ?

His second son, Charles I., a prince of many virtues, but, like his father, fond of arbitrary power, and given to insincerity in his dealings with his parliament.

242. What made him unpopular at the first ?

The influence exercised over him by his haughty and worthless favorite Buckingham, and his queen, Henrietta Maria of France, (a Roman Catholic). Buckingham was assassinated.

243. What party strongly opposed the government at this time ?

The Puritans, a party opposed to the Church of England and to arbitrary government. They forced the king to promise, by the Petition of Right, (1628), that he would raise no taxes without consent of parliament.

244. Did Charles keep his promise ?

No ; Being refused sufficient supplies by the parliament, he imposed an illegal tax called ship money, and ruled for eleven years without a parliament.

245. Who assisted him in the government during this interval ?

The Earl of Strafford and Archbishop Laud, who, after Buckingham's death, were his chief advisers.

246. To what did their high-handed measures lead ?

First to a large emigration of the Puritans to the colonies of New England, and second to a civil war between the Royalists and Parliamentarians, or as they were called the Cavaliers and Roundheads.

247. What was the issue of this war ?

After an indecisive battle at Edgehill, (1642), the Earl of Essex, Lord Fairfax, and Cromwell beat the royal forces at Marston Moor, (1644), and Naseby, (1645), and Charles became a prisoner.

248. What followed the success of the Roundheads ?

The execution of Lord Strafford and Archbishop Laud : and afterwards that of the king himself, who was taken prisoner by the parliament, and at last beheaded, January 30, 1649.

249. What discoveries and inventions were made in the reign of Charles the First ?

Barometers and thermometers were invented ; newspapers were first regularly published ; and coffee was brought to England. Charles patronized the great Flemish painters Rubens and Vandyke.

The Commonwealth or Republic.

250. When was Oliver Cromwell chosen Protector of England ?

A. D. 1653, being four years after the commencement of the Commonwealth ; which had before been managed by the House of Commons, nobility and episcopacy having been declared abolished.

251. How long was Cromwell Protector ?

Nearly five years ; he died in 1658 ; and was succeeded by his son Richard Cromwell, who shortly after succeeding to the Protectorate, preferred to retire to private life.

252. What was the character of Oliver Cromwell ?

He was a man of great courage, ambition and hypocrisy.

253. What are the principal events of his time ?

A war with the Dutch, who were defeated by Blake in several great sea-fights ; and the conquest of Jamaica, which was made an English colony. The great poet Milton lived

in the time of Cromwell, to whom he was Latin secretary ; but he did not write his great poem, " The Paradise Lost," until the next reign.

Charles the Second.

254. What events succeeded Cromwell's death ?

The unsettled state of things disposed the people to restore royalty in the person of the deceased king's eldest son, who became Charles II. in 1660.

255. What are the principal events of his reign ?

The great plague of London in 1665, in which nearly 100,000 persons perished, and the great fire of London in the next year, when the central part of the city, comprising over 13,000 houses, was burnt.

256. What was the character of Charles ?

He has been well called " the falsest, meanest, merriest of mankind." Following his example, the English, who during the Commonwealth had been overstrict in their manners, broke out into the opposite extremes of immorality and vice.

257. What were the other events of the reign ?

A war at sea with the Dutch, in which the colony of New York was taken from Holland, the founding of the Royal Society for the prosecution of studies in the physical sciences, (which now began to attract much attention), the passing of the Test and Habeas Corpus Acts, and the obscure conspiracies called the Popish and Rye House Plots.

258. What men of genius now flourished ?

Clarendon the historian, Dryden, Waller, and Butler, the poets, Halley and Boyle, the philosophers, and Sir William Temple. Charles was succeeded by his brother James II. in 1685.

James the Second.

259. What was the character of James the Second ?

He was a bigot to the Romish religion, and fond of arbitrary power.

260. What was the principal event of this reign ?

The duke of Monmouth's rebellion, who was proclaimed king at Taunton, but being afterwards taken prisoner, he was beheaded in London.

261. Who was the duke of Monmouth ?

A natural son of Charles the Second.

262. What became of James the Second ?

His attempts to restore the Roman Catholic religion and despotism obliged him to abdicate the throne ; he reigned three years and nine months, and retired to France, where he died A. D. 1701. His son-in-law William was invited over to take the throne.

263. How many children who survived him, had James the Second ?

Three ; James, called the Pretender, Mary, and Anne. The placing of William and Mary on the throne by the Parliament is called the Revolution. — In this reign Wm. Penn, a Quaker, founded Pennsylvania.

William the Third and Mary the Second.

264. Who was William the Third ?

He was the son of William, prince of Orange, and of Henrietta Maria, daughter of Charles I. He was born at the Hague, in Holland, in 1650, and was married to Mary the eldest daughter of James II.

265. What was the character of this prince ?

He was a great warrior, and a steady friend to the Protestant religion and civil liberty.

266. What was the character of Mary ?

Though her father was a devoted Papist, she was a firm Protestant ; she was an excellent wife, and a truly pious woman. Her person was very handsome. She died before William, in 1694.

267. Relate the principal events of this reign.

The battle of the Boyne, in Ireland, where king James II. was defeated ; the defeat of the French fleet at Cape La Hogue ; the establishment of the Bank of England ; and the rise of the national debt.

268. What great men shed lustre on this reign ?

Newton, Locke, Tillotson, Prior, and Burnet.

269. Had William and Mary any children ?

No ; they were succeeded by Anne, second daughter of James II., who was married to Prince George, brother to the king of Denmark.

Queen Anne.

270. What was the character of Queen Anne?

Queen Anne possessed many excellent qualities; her memory is cherished on account of her piety and unlimited charity.

271. Relate the principal events of her reign.

The battles of Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, won by the great Duke of Marlborough. The defeat of the combined fleets of France and Spain, by Sir George Rooke, the capture of Gibraltar, and the union of England and Scotland, under the title of Great Britain, A. D. 1707.

272. In what war did these battles occur?

In a general European war in which Britain, Austria and Saxony were opposed to Spain and France, which latter country supported the claim of the Pretender to the British crown. At the peace of Utrecht, which ended it, Nova Scotia was ceded by France to Britain, and its capital, Port Royal, changed its name to Annapolis in honor of the queen.*

273. How many children had Prince George of Denmark and Anne?

Six; but all died in their infancy. Queen Anne reigned twelve years and a half. She died A. D. 1714.

274. Who were the most celebrated literary characters in her reign?

Pope, Swift, Congreve, Gay, Bolingbroke, Shaftesbury, Addison, Steele, &c.

CHAPTER XIV.

LINE OF BRUNSWICK, OR HANOVER.

George the First.

275. Who succeeded Anne?

George the First, A. D. 1714. He had been previously elector of Hanover. He acquired the crown in right of his mother Sophia, who was the grand-daughter of James I. and the nearest Protestant heir. He was a good king, and an enemy to every species of tyranny.

* Halifax was founded under Lord Halifax in 1749, and superseded Annapolis as capital.

276. What are the principal events of this reign ?

The rebellion of the Scots in 1715, in favor of the son of James the Second, which was soon quelled, and the Pretender obliged to retire into France.* The electorate of Hanover was annexed to the British crown.

277. Were there any others ?

Inoculation was first introduced into England, and successfully tried upon two condemned criminals, who were pardoned on submitting to the operation, 1721. By the fraudulent South-sea scheme for buying up the debts of the nation, thousands of people were ruined.

278. What fault had George I. and his son as kings of England ?

As William of Orange thought more of Holland than of Britain; so George I. and II. studied the interests of Hanover more than those of their far more important island possessions, which they left almost entirely to the government of Walpole, the Prime Minister. In 1727, during one of his frequent visits to Hanover, George I. was seized with apoplexy in his carriage and died, leaving the throne to his son, George II.

George the Second.

279. How old was George II. at his accession ?

Forty-four, and like his father he had spent all his life in Germany. He was married to Caroline of Anspach, a woman of sense and virtue. The Whigs under Walpole retained their ascendancy.

280. What foreign wars occurred in this reign ?

Three ; the war with Spain, which arose in 1739 on account of the British attempting to smuggle goods into Spanish America ; the war of the Austrian succession ; and the seven years' war.

281. What were the principal events of the Spanish war ?

Vernon's capture of Portobello, on the Isthmus of Darien, and his subsequent failure to take Carthagena. Also Anson's circumnavigation of the globe, and his successes in the Pacific against the Spaniards.

* The party of this Prince were called Jacobites from the Latin form of his name—*Jacobus*.

282. State the circumstances of the next war.

It arose in 1741, in consequence of the French and Prussians having attempted to deprive Maria Theresa of the crown of Germany, and George took part in it from a regard to the interests of Hanover. He defeated a superior French force at Dettingen in 1743, but his son, the duke of Cumberland, was in turn beaten by the French at Fontenoy in 1745.

283. What followed ?

Charles Edward, the young Pretender, assisted by France, landed in Scotland, and, being joined by the Highland Jacobites, beat the royal troops at Preston Pans in 1745, and advanced into England. Cumberland approaching at the head of the main British army, Charles Edward retreated back to the Highlands, where he was utterly routed at Culloden Moor in 1746, and the cause of the Stuarts forever lost. Charles escaped with great difficulty.

284. What caused the seven years' war ?

The disputes of England and France about their colonies in America and India, in which the French were the aggressors. After several unsuccessful expeditions had been sent out, Louisburg, in Cape Breton, and then Quebec, were taken by Wolfe and Amherst in 1759; while Clive destroyed French ascendancy in India at the victory of Plassey in 1757. Wolfe's victories gave Britain Canada and Nova Scotia, and Clive's Bengal. Spain, coming to the aid of France, soon lost Havannah and Manilla; and Hawke destroyed the French fleet off Brest. In fact Britain, owing to the wise statesmanship of her minister Pitt, and to the valor of her forces, was everywhere triumphant.

285. What was the social state of England at this time ?

There was much immorality and irreligion, and that in high places. The Methodists arose during this reign; and the calendar was altered from the old to the new style.

286. Who succeeded George II. ?

His son Frederick, Prince of Wales, had died before him; Frederick's eldest son therefore succeeded as George III. in 1760.

George the Third.

287. When did George the Third succeed his grandfather on the throne of England ?

In 1760, being nearly twenty-two years of age. He was married to Charlotte Sophia, Princess of Mecklenburgh Strelitz.

288. What important events occurred during the reign of George the Third ?

A war was waged with certain colonies in North America, through which a part of that country eventually threw off its allegiance to Great Britain ; and war was also declared against France, Spain and Holland, the allies of the Americans.

289. What dangerous riot took place in this reign ?

A dangerous riot was excited in London, A. D. 1780, on account of some concessions that were made to the Roman Catholics.

290. What were the principal glories of this reign ?

A brilliant series of naval victories obtained by Lords Hood, Howe, St. Vincent, Duncan and Nelson. The union of England and Ireland, A. D. 1801, and the abolition of the slave-trade, during the administration of Mr. Fox, A. D. 1807.

291. What gave rise to the war with America ?

The levying of certain duties, to be payable by our American colonies in aid of the public revenue, which being resisted, measures were resorted to which occasioned an open defiance on the part of that country to the legislation of the British government.

292. What was the issue of the American war ?

After an eight years' struggle, in which the British, under Howe, Clinton, Burgoyne and Cornwallis, were opposed to Washington and other American leaders, it became clear that the contest was hopeless. Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga in 1777, and Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781. Elliott, assisted by Rodney, nobly sustained the siege of Gibraltar, and Howe destroyed the French fleet in the West Indies. But Britain made peace, and acknowledged the independence of the colonies under the name of the United States in 1783. They became a Republic, with Washington for their first President.

293. What followed the close of the War ?

Those true to their allegiance (called "the Loyalists") in the revolted Colonies removed to British America, and laid

the foundations of the communities in which we now live. Upper Canada, New Brunswick,* and Prince Edward Island were now made separate Provinces: and this, with the additions made by the discoveries of Cook and others in the South Seas, and the enlargement of her Indian possessions by Clive and Hastings, almost made up to Britain for the possessions she had lost.

294. When did the revolution take place in France?

It commenced in 1789, and the regal government being subverted, France exhibited for a long time scenes of bloodshed, rapine, and misery, under the delusive idea of civil liberty. The king, Louis XVI., with the queen, a great number of the nobility, and innumerable other persons of every rank, were sacrificed to the resentment and caprice of the various factions which successively acquired the ascendant.

295. Was England engaged in a war at this time?

Yes; in the East Indies, conducted by Earl Cornwallis against Tippoo Saib, who was slain in a gallant defence of Seringapatam, and his sons were made captives. Thus ended the kingdom of Mysore.

296. Was the tranquility of this country disturbed by the French revolution?

Yes; after the death of Louis XIV., king of France, England and Holland engaged in war with that country; Austria and Prussia, being alarmed at the principles disseminated by the French, had previously declared war against France, in their own defence.

297. What ensued from the early events of this war?

The continental powers having been defeated, and their kingdoms overrun by the French, they were obliged to make peace, and Great Britain was for some time left to contend alone with France.

298. Who was at the head of the French government at this period?

After that country had suffered under the despotism of several factions, a form of government was at length settled, consisting of three consuls, whereof the first, as chief, was Napoleon Buonaparte, a Corsican by birth, and a general in

* St. John was founded May 18th, 1783.

the French service, who afterwards altered the government, and caused himself to be declared Emperor of France.

299. Were there not some important victories gained about this period ?

Yes ; in Egypt, to which the French had sent an expedition to subdue the country, under their General Buonaparte. Their fleet was attacked in the bay of Aboukir, in Egypt, by Admiral Lord Nelson, who completely defeated them, with great loss, both of ships and men. This memorable action was called the victory of the Nile. The French army was also beaten by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who lost his life in the moment of victory. These great events at length obliged the enemy to abandon their views on Egypt.

300. When was the war between England and France brought to a conclusion ?

In the year 1802, by the treaty of Aimens ; but peace was of short duration, for the restless ambition of the French ruler led to new disputes between the two governments, and war was resumed the following year.

301. Were any great naval advantages gained by this country soon after the renewal of the war ?

Yes ; the ever-memorable battle of Trafalgar, in which the undaunted hero Admiral Lord Nelson achieved a splendid victory, but unhappily for his country, was himself slain. In testimony of grateful respect, his remains were honoured with a public and splendid funeral in St. Paul's Church ; and his death was deplored as a national calamity.

302. Was England solicited by Portugal and Spain to assist in defending those countries from the aggressions of the French ?

Yes ; a large military force was sent over to them under the command of Sir Arthur Wellesley, whose important services delivered Portugal from the enemy, and whose subsequent achievements and victories at Almei'da, Albue'ra, Talave'ra and Vitto'ria, in Spain, were principally instrumental in obliging the French to evacuate that country likewise.

303. Did the British general follow up his victories ?

Yes ; he pursued the enemy over the *Pyrenees*, into France, and finally defeated them at Toulouse, while the allies were marching towards Paris from the other side of France.

304. What remarkable event occurred in the year 1807?

The British government having obtained information that the Danish fleet was to be placed under the control of France, a British fleet under Admiral Gambier, and a land force under Lord Cathcart, were sent to Copenhagen, and in 1807, they obliged the Danes to deliver up, by capitulation, their whole fleet.

305. What was the most remarkable event of the year 1812?

The assassination of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, Prime Minister of England, by a man named Bellingham.

306. Where did this occur?

As Mr. Perceval was entering the lobby of the House of Commons, he was shot in the breast; and, after advancing two or three paces, he exclaimed "Oh! I am murdered!" and fell on his face.

307. What became of Bellingham, the murderer?

He was tried for the offence, found guilty and executed.

308. Were there not some very important events on the continent, affecting the welfare of England, brought about by the French ruler?

The French power having prevailed in reducing Austria, Prussia, Russia, Holland, Switzerland, and the Italian States to a state of humiliation, those countries were compelled to make peace with France, and to submit to the condition of resisting the introduction of English goods into any of their respective ports, with the view of ruining the commerce of this kingdom.

309. Did not this state of things lead to some consequences prejudicial to the French arms?

The shutting up of the Continent from English commerce having been enforced by the most arbitrary and oppressive conduct on the part of the French government, it was found intolerable; Russia, therefore abandoned her alliance with France, and this rupture induced the French to invade the Russian dominions with a force of nearly 300,000 men.

310. How did the French succeed in the Russian invasion?

They reached the city of Moscow, which was burnt, and Buonaparte was compelled to commence a retreat in the

depth of winter. Harassed by the Russians on every side, his army was not only defeated, but almost annihilated, by sickness, and various calamities.

311. What other events occurred upon the Continent, favourable to the welfare of England ?

The disastrous termination of the French expedition to Russia gave an opportunity for Austria and Prussia to abandon their connexion with France, and enter into an alliance with Russia.

312. What was the consequence ?

To counteract this, Buonaparte, the following year, 1813 collected a powerful army in Saxony; and having been attacked by the allied powers, and defeated in the tremendous battle of Leipsic he was compelled to retreat to France pursued by the united forces of his enemies, who, in their turn, invaded and penetrated into the very heart of France.

313. To what important events did the prowess of Great Britain and her allies more immediately lead.

The overthrow of Napoleon, who, having abdicated the throne which he had usurped, was allowed to retire to the island of Elba in the Mediterranean Sea, the sovereignty of which island he accepted in lieu of his former extensive dominions. Louis XVIII. was placed on the throne of his ancestors, and a treaty of peace signed by all the belligerent powers.

314. What part did England take in the cause ?

England, after sustaining the burden of a continued war of more than twenty years, was still ready to assist and animate her allies on every occasion, and put forth her strength with undiminished ardour. England was uniform, persevering, undaunted and undismayed, in a contest of unexampled difficulty.

315. What was the state of Europe after the peace of Paris ?

A general congress was held at Vienna, by the principal sovereigns of Europe, for the purpose of establishing a balance of power, and securing the tranquility of the Continent. Their deliberations were at first attended with success, and seemed to prognosticate a happy termination of their labours ;

when the escape of Buonaparte from Elba obliged them once more to lead their armies to the field of battle.

316. When did Napoleon Buonaparte make his escape, and what was his success?

He landed on the coast of France in March, 1815; and having been joined by the greater part of those officers who owed their elevation to his favor, and by that army which had been so long accustomed to serve him, he marched without opposition to Paris, and again seated himself on the French throne, Louis having retired to Ghent.

317. How did the allied sovereigns determine to act?

No sooner was the news of this event communicated to the allied sovereigns assembled at Vienna, than, with an unanimous voice, they resolved to support the cause of the French monarch, and to hurl the usurper from his throne.

318. What was the result of their endeavors?

Both sides prepared with great energy to take the field; and Napoleon, in hopes of overthrowing the British and Prussians before the other allies could assemble their forces, suddenly led a considerable army into Belgium. Crossing the river Sambre, he drove in the Prussian outposts on the 15th of June, and defeated Blucher in an obstinately contested battle at Ligny, on the 16th, on which day the English advanced-guard sustained a fierce attack at Quatre-Bras (or the cross-roads), where the duke of Brunswick fell in action; but nothing was able to withstand the courage of the English, Scotch and Irish, under the duke of Wellington, who, after a glorious exhibition of coolness, endurance, and tact, gained a complete victory near Waterloo on the 18th of June, 1815.

319. What were the numbers of the respective armies on this occasion?

Buonaparte's army amounted to about one hundred and fifty thousand men, of whom twenty-five thousand were cavalry, and mostly experienced troops. The Prussian general, Blucher, commanded about one hundred thousand men; and the duke of Wellington about seventy thousand; but in the previous conflict between the Prussians and the French, on the 16th June, only eighty thousand of the former had come up, and were opposed to a hundred thousand of the latter.

320. What was the event of the battle of Waterloo?

The French were beaten by the allied forces before the remainder of the Prussians came up; and at the close of the defeat, about fifty thousand men effected their escape, leaving behind them one hundred and fifty pieces of cannon and their ammunition. Grouchy retreated also with his corps from Wavre, and the French troops, deserted by their emperor, withdrew beyond the river Loire.

321. What was the loss of the British army?

Generals Sir Thomas Picton and Sir W. Ponsonby, and four colonels were killed; nine generals, five colonels, and a number of inferior officers, were wounded; and the killed, wounded and missing of non-commissioned officers and privates, British and Hanoverians, amounted to nearly thirteen thousand.

322. What was the consequence of this victory?

The military power of France being annihilated, nothing could oppose the progress of the British and Prussian forces, who made themselves masters of the French metropolis, and ended the campaign, and with it the war, in less than fourteen days.

323. What became of Buonaparte?

The French royal family was restored, and Buonaparte, having in vain attempted to make his escape, delivered himself up to the English. He was conveyed to the English coast in the Bellerophon, and remained till at length it was determined to send him to the island of St. Helena, as a place of security.

324. What was the final close of Buonaparte's career?

He died at St. Helena, of a cancer in his stomach, in 1821.

325. Were there not some afflicting circumstances in regard to the king's health?

Yes; in the year 1788 George III. was attacked by a temporary privation of reason, but happily recovered in the following year. The malady, however, returned in 1810, and he was not afterwards able to exercise the duties of his high station; in consequence of which, the prince of Wales, who was the heir-apparent to the crown, governed the kingdom under the title of Regent.

326. Did not Great Britain signalize herself by the chastisement of the Algerines?

Yes; many atrocities having been committed by the Algerines, in their piratical attacks on the ships of almost every European nation, the government equipped a fleet under Lord Exmouth, in 1816, to compel them to abandon their inhuman practices. To this, after the bombardment of their capital, they were obliged to consent.

327. What was the internal state of Britain at this time?

The sudden change from a state of war to that of peace did not, at the same time, bring with it the blessings of repose; but, on the contrary, our commercial and manufacturing interests were seriously affected by it, and the want of sufficient employment pressed heavily on the lower orders of the people.

328. Was not the public mind much agitated by numerous meetings of the populace, which took place in various parts of this country?

Yes; under the pretence of petitioning the legislature for a reform of parliament, immense multitudes assembled in London and other large towns, and the inflammatory speeches, which were there delivered, excited the turbulent part of the populace to acts of violence.

329. At what places did this spirit of insubordination chiefly manifest itself?

In London, Manchester, Derby, &c.; in consequence of which the parliament passed a Bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus* Act, and some of the most active ringleaders were apprehended under warrants from the Secretary of State.

330. What was the consequence?

Several were tried on charges of high treason, and acquitted; others were found guilty and executed; while the greater part, after having been confined for a considerable length of time, were liberated, and the Suspension Bill was repealed.

331. What lamented event in the history of the country took place in 1817?

* The writ of *Habeas Corpus* is the great barrier against arbitrary imprisonment, as by it a prisoner may compel the Courts of law to show a cause why he should not be set at liberty.

The death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales. On the 6th of November, this accomplished and amiable princess died, after having given birth to a still-born son.

332. How did the public feel on this melancholy occasion ?

So unexpected and calamitous an event, happening at a moment when the whole nation was elated with the prospect of having an heir to the throne, the offspring of their beloved princess, filled the heart of every one with unexampled grief.

333. Was not her funeral observed with great solemnity ?

Yes ; never was grief more sincere or the expression of it more respectful. The day of her funeral was observed in every part of the empire as one of general mourning and humiliation : and the sorrow that pervaded every heart on this occasion, affords an undeniable testimony of the high estimation in which her virtues were held.

334. To what events did the lamented death of the Princess Charlotte give rise ?

Her death having interrupted the direct line of succession to the throne, her unmarried uncles sought such alliances as their own rank and the interests of the kingdom demanded.

335. Did not a meeting of those sovereigns with whom England had lately been in alliance take place about the same time ?

Yes ; peace having been fully established in Europe, a meeting of the allied sovereigns was held at Aix-la-Chapelle, where it was agreed that the troops left in France, for the purpose of giving stability to the monarchical power, were no longer necessary, and they were accordingly recalled.

336. What events of a political nature took place in England in the year 1819 ?

The country was in a state of considerable agitation from the large and numerous meetings of the populace, who were styled Radical Reformers. One of these meetings at length terminated very fatally at Manchester.

337. Relate the circumstances attending it.

On the 16th of August an immense multitude of persons assembled at Manchester, with banners indicative of their principles, headed by Mr. Hunt, a person who had made himself notorious at similar meetings on former occasions,

The magistracy, considering such an assemblage likely to proceed to violence, had called to the aid of the civil power two regiments of yeomanry and some regular troops; a party of the former being ordered to assist in securing the leaders, and to disperse the people, a scene of terror and confusion ensued, whereby some persons lost their lives, and many were seriously wounded.

338. To what did this lead?

The government thought it expedient to prevent such meetings of the people in future, unless they were convened by persons in authority; and for that and other purposes, restrictive acts were passed, not, however, without considerable opposition from those members who advocated the cause of parliamentary reform.

339. Was not the commencement of the year 1820 rendered remarkable in a melancholy manner by the death of two illustrious persons?

Yes; on the 23rd of January the Duke of Kent expired at his cottage at Sidmouth, in Devonshire, from inflammation brought on by cold. His royal highness, who was sincerely lamented, left an infant daughter, Alexandrina Victoria, (her present Majesty). Queen Charlotte had died in 1818.

340. Who was the other illustrious person who died at this period?

His venerable Majesty, George the Third, who expired on the 29th of January, 1820, in the 60th year of his reign, and the 82nd of his age. The long and severe malady that this just and amiable monarch had endured, had prepared his affectionate subjects for the melancholy event; but though long expected, his death was sincerely lamented.

341. Was not his reign signalized by many important discoveries, inventions, and improvements?

Yes; by the discovery of various islands and countries in different parts of the world; by the introduction of vaccination as a protection against the small-pox; by the use of gas for the purpose of lighting our streets, churches, manufactories, and shops; by the employment of steam for the purpose of propelling ships at sea, and various machines on land; also by numerous improvements in chemistry and other sciences.

342. Was not George the Third celebrated likewise for the encouragement he gave to the arts of painting and sculpture ?

Yes ; it was under his auspices that the Royal Academy for painting was founded at Somerset House.

343. What great men flourished during this reign ?

The poets Burns, Cowper, and Goldsmith ; the historians Hume, Smollett, and Gibbon ; the writers Johnson, Adam Smith, Paley, and Blackstone ; the inventors Watt, Brindley, and Arkwright ; the statesmen Burke, Pitt, and Fox ; the artists Reynolds, Lawrence, and Turner ; and a host of others.

CHAPTER XV.

George the Fourth.

344. By whom was George the Third succeeded ?

By his eldest son, George, Prince of Wales, at that time Regent of the kingdom ; who was publicly proclaimed in London and Westminster.

345. By what other occurrences was the year distinguished ?

By a general election throughout the United Kingdom, and by the trials of Mr. Hunt, and others at York, on a charge of attending, &c. the meeting at Manchester, (which had been decreed an illegal one), and of Sir Francis Burdett, at Leicester, for writing a letter on that occasion, reflecting on the conduct of government. In both instances the defendants were found guilty and imprisoned. Also by the trials and conviction of the Cato-street conspirators.

346. What other event of importance occurred during the year 1820 ?

Her Majesty, Queen Caroline, who had for several years been residing abroad, and who, in her absence, had been accused of improper conduct, arrived at Dover, to meet the charges which had been made against her.

347. To what did her arrival lead ?

To her public trial by the peers of the realm, in the House of Lords, where she appeared personally ; and although there was a small majority of votes against her, the government deemed it advisable to drop the proceedings, and allow her £60,000 per annum, to support the dignity of her station.

348. What was the next event of public interest ?

The coronation of his Majesty George the Fourth, in Westminster Abbey, 1821 ; after which the king visited Ireland.

349. What occurred in London during the king's absence ?

The death of the queen. Her remains were taken to Brunswick, to be interred in the family vault ; but the funeral procession having been ordered by the government not to pass through the city of London, and the populace being resolved that it should go by no other route, serious disturbances took place.

350. What were the next memorable events ?

The king's return from Ireland, and subsequent visit to Hanover ; and his visit in the summer of 1822 to Scotland.

351. What celebrated statesman died at this period ?

The Marquis of Londonderry, who in a fit of insanity terminated his existence.

352. What celebrated English Poet died in 1824, and in what cause was he engaged ?

George, Lord Byron, whilst assisting the Greeks against their Turkish oppressors.

353. What celebrated men died in the year 1827 ?

Frederick, Duke of York, Heir Presumptive to the throne, and the Right Hon. George Canning, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

354. What political changes occurred at this period ?

The Earl of Liverpool being incapacitated, by a fit of apoplexy, from attending to his public duties, was succeeded by the Hon. George Canning as Prime Minister.

355. How long did Mr. Canning hold office ?

Only until the 8th of August following, the fatigues and difficulties he had to contend with having aggravated a disease he had already neglected, he expired on that day.

356. What remarkable naval event occurred in the year 1827 ?

The Turkish government having refused to adopt pacific measures respecting its Greek subjects, a serious misunderstanding arose ; and a combined fleet of English, French,

and Russian ships encountered the Turkish fleet in the harbor of Navarino, where a furious battle ensued, in which the Turks were completely defeated.

357. What was the state of affairs in 1828 ?

The Duke of Wellington, with a new ministry, succeeded Lord Goderich, and the Test and Corporation Acts were repealed.

358. What remarkable characters died in the year 1828 ?

Dr. Sutton, Archbishop of Canterbury, having filled that high station twenty-three years ; and the Earl of Liverpool, many years Prime Minister of England.

359. What were the chief events of 1829 ?

The passing of the act admitting the Roman Catholics to the fullest political privileges.

360. When did the death of George the Fourth occur ?

In June, 1830, after a reign principally remarkable for a long-continued peace, and for the great architectural improvements made in the capital.

CHAPTER XVI.

William the Fourth.

361. By whom was George the Fourth succeeded ?

By his brother the Duke of Clarence, who ascended the throne as William the Fourth, and reigned seven years. The first year of the reign was marked by the opening of the first railway—that from Liverpool to Manchester, and by the first appearance of the Asiatic cholera.

362. What were the chief events of the early parts of his reign ?

The great political excitement caused by the agitation of the question of the Reform of the Commons' House of Parliament.

363. What was the progress of that question ?

On the assembling of the parliament, the Duke of Wellington, as Prime Minister, declared his determination not to advocate the measure in any shape ; and a new administration, with Earl Grey at its head, was formed in November, 1830. On the 18th March following, Lord John Russell presented a bill in the House of Commons for a very exten-

sive alteration of the representation ; but it was carried after much severe debating, by a majority of one only, and the parliament was dissolved. The bill was again introduced on the re-assembling of the Parliament in June, and was carried up to the house of Lords, where it was rejected.

364. What was the result of this rejection ?

The greatest political excitement all over the country, which manifested itself in the formation of associations and the assemblage of large multitudes to agitate the question.

365. How did the Parliament proceed ?

In December it re-assembled, and the Reform Bill, somewhat modified, was again introduced into the Commons' House, from which, after a protracted debate, it was sent to the Upper House ; where, after a most animated discussion, it was passed : several Lords withdrawing in consequence of His Majesty's express declaration that he would create Peers to carry the measure, if opposition was persisted in. The royal assent was given to this, certainly the most important act since the settlement of the crown in 1688, on the 7th of June, 1832.

366. What were the other measures of the session ?

Reform Acts applying to Ireland and Scotland, which passed with little opposition.

367. What were the other important events in this reign ?

The renewal of the Charters of the Bank and East India Company ; the total abolition of Slavery from the 1st of August 1834, in the British Dominions ; the Bill for the amendment of the Poor Law ; and the renewal of the Irish Coercion Bill, in consequence of the tumultuous state of that country. The great men of these two short reigns were Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey, Campbell, and Moore, poets ; Scott, Sydney Smith, Alison, Macintosh, Brougham, and Mill, prose writers ; Davy, Banks, Telford, and Stephenson, men of science ; and Clarkson and Wilberforce, philanthropists.

CHAPTER XVII.

Victoria.

368. Who succeeded William IV ?

His niece Victoria, the daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, and of Victoria of Saxe Cobourg. She was about

nineteen years of age, and was soon afterwards married to Prince Albert of Saxe Cobourg, her cousin.

369. What has been the character of the present Queen, and her husband ?

Such as to win for them the warmest love and reverence of the many millions of British subjects throughout the world. They were tenderly attached to each other and to their people ; and the death of the Prince Consort in 1861, cast a gloom over the Court which still oppresses it. Science, art, agriculture, and social amelioration lost in Prince Albert one of their most earnest and generous well-wishers in this era.

370. Name the Queen's children.

1. Victoria, the Princess Royal, who married the Prince of Prussia ; 2. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Heir Apparent to the throne, who married Alexandra of Denmark ; 3. Alice, who married Prince Louis of Hesse ; 4. Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, now serving in the navy ; 5. Helena ; 6. Louisa ; 7. Arthur ; 8. Leopold ; 9. Beatrice.

371. What possession did Britain lose at Victoria's accession ?

The kingdom of Hanover. The Salic law, which prevails there, excludes females from the succession, and the throne of that country passed, therefore, to the next male heir, viz., Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, the queen's eldest surviving uncle.

372. What was the first remarkable event of this reign ?

A rebellion in Lower Canada, caused by discontent among the French of that colony ; but it was put down without difficulty early in 1838, the leaders flying to the United States. Upper and Lower Canada were then united.

373. Was there not discontent in England itself also at this time ?

Yes ; a number of the working classes, called Chartists, were concocting seditious schemes, and even attacked Newport in South Wales, 1839 ; but they were easily dispersed. A subsequent attempt at sedition, by the same party, in 1848, was still more easily suppressed.

374. Has not the present reign been distinguished by remarkable events in the colonies ?

Preëminently so, for though Britain herself has been (with one remarkable exception) at peace with Europe, few years of the reign have been unmarked by colonial wars.

375. What were the most noteworthy ?

The Chinese, Affghan, Sikh, Burmese, Kafir, and New Zealand wars, and the Sepoy mutiny.

376. What has been the general character of the Chinese wars ?

They have mostly arisen from the dislike of the Chinese government to admit Europeans to trade in their ports, and they have been the more frequent and protracted from their bad faith in treaties. In 1842, at the treaty of Nankin, Sir H. Pottinger forced them to pay a heavy indemnity, to cede the island of Hong Kong to Britain, and to open five of their ports to British trade. In another war in 1856, the British and French seized Canton and forced them to open all their country to European traders and missionaries. This treaty again having been broken by the "celestials," the same forces captured Peking itself, and brought them to reason.

377. Relate the circumstances of the Affghan war.

Fearing Russian encroachment in India, Britain sent an army in 1839 under Sir John Keane, to occupy Affghanistan, as the Affghans favored Russia. Candahar, Cabul, and Ghuznee were taken ; but the Affghans suddenly rose, and slaughtered all the British in the country. To revenge this outrage, Pollock led a second army there, destroyed Cabul, and withdrew, after inflicting a severe punishment on the barbarians.

378. What war resulted from and followed this last ?

The war in Scinde, which was quickly finished by Sir Charles Napier, in the great victories of Meanee and Hyderabad. Scinde was then annexed to British India.

379. What war followed this ?

The Sikh war, which was distinguished by the battles gained by Gough and Hardinge at Ferozeshah, Aliwal, Sobraon, Chillianwallah and Goojerat, and ended in the annexation of the Punjab in 1849.

380. What occurred in Scotland in 1843 ?

The disruptoin in the Established Kirk. A large party thought that the Church should be more independent of the

State and of lay patronage, and formed, therefore, a separate religious body called the Free Kirk.

381. What occurrence took place in Ireland in the same year ?

The agitation by Daniel O'Connell and others for a repeal of the Union, which was suppressed, and the leaders brought to trial, but released. Two years after, the potato-blight caused great distress there, which was, however, alleviated by generous aid from Britain and America, and by an extraordinary emigration. During the ten years from 1840 to 1850, the population of the island decreased by about 2,000,000. This Irish exodus was further stimulated by the gold discoveries in California, (1847), and Australia, (1851), and resulted happily in a great increase of the population of these territories as well as of the United States and British America.

382. What was the great event of these years in England itself ?

The agitation for a repeal of the Corn Laws by the manufacturing classes, led by Cobden, Bright, Elliott and others, which resulted in the triumph of free trade in 1845 ; Sir Robert Peel giving place to Lord John Russell as Premier.

383. What other great events occurred about the same time ?

The railway mania in England, which caused great commercial distress in 1847. Also the establishment of a national scheme for the education of the poor, and the introduction of the electric telegraph.

384. By what was the year 1848 distinguished ?

By many European revolutions. In France, Louis Philippe was dethroned, and France declared a republic. After some months Louis Napoleon, nephew of the great Buonaparte, was elected President, and four years afterwards became Emperor of the French under the title of Napoleon III. Tumults in Germany and Italy followed, as well as renewed Chartist agitation in England under O'Connor, and repeal agitation in Ireland under Smith O'Brien and others ; but all these came to nothing.

385. What were the chief events of 1850 ?

The death of Sir R. Peel by a fall from his horse, and the re-establishment of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in England.

386. Was not the next year a famous one ?

The year 1851 was one of the most famous of the reign. Prince Alfred and Sir R. Peel had conceived the idea of holding an Exhibition for the industry of all nations, Sir Joseph Paxton, the architect, projected a magnificent building in Hyde Park for its reception, composed of iron and glass ; and the artizans of all nations having filled it with the wonders of every art and clime, it was crowded by visitors from all parts of the world. After being kept open throughout the summer it was taken down and re-erected at Sydenham as a permanent place of public recreation, and still remains there. In the same year the first submarine telegraph was laid from Dover to Calais.

387. What events were occurring at this time in the colonies ?

The Kafir and Burmese wars. The former lasted from 1851 to 1853, and confirmed British supremacy in South Africa ; and the latter resulted in the annexation of Pegu to British India. Australia and British North America were now rapidly progressing—the latter from the prosperity in the ship building and timber trades.

388. What event marked the year 1852 ?

The death of Wellington, the hero of Waterloo, and the Peninsular War. He was buried with public honors, in St. Paul's Cathedral.

389. What was the next great event ?

The outbreak of the Crimean war. Europe had enjoyed peace for half a century, when in 1854, the Czar Nicholas laid claim to a protectorate of the Greek subjects of Turkey. Enforcing this claim in a rather high handed manner by endeavouring to seize the Roumann provinces (Moldavia and Wallachia), England and France came to the aid of Turkey against him.

390. What were the chief events of the war ?

The Turks under Omar Pasha bravely repulsed the Russians at Silistria, and the allied fleets bombarded Odessa. But the chief theatre of the war was the Crimea, where the

English, French, Sardinian, and Turkish armies besieged the great fortress of Sebastopol for about a year.

391. What battles were fought outside its walls ?

Those of Alma, Balaclava and Inkerman in 1854, and that of the Tchernaya in 1855. After having once unsuccessfully assaulted the place, the allies at length stormed and took it September 8th, 1855. Some other successes were gained in the Baltic ; and Russia, thoroughly crippled, sought peace, which followed early in 1856. During the war Raglan and St. Armand, (the English and French leaders), and the Emperor Nicholas himself, died.

392. What Asiatic wars followed soon after ?

A war with China, already referred to, and the disastrous Sepoy mutiny in India in 1857. The story of this is fresh in the minds of all,—the glorious defence of Lucknow by the hero Havelock, and its relief by Sir Colin Campbell, the storming of the mutineers' headquarters at Delhi, the exploits of Outram and the brothers Lawrence, and the triumphant re-establishment of British rule in the East. The government of India was now transferred from the East India Company to the crown.

393. What events marked the year 1860 ?

The renewal of the war with China, in which the Anglo-French army stormed Peking and conquered a peace. Also the visit of the Prince of Wales to America at the invitation of the Canadians. The Prince inaugurated the great Victoria Bridge at Montreal, and then made a tour through Canada, the lower Provinces, and great part of the United States, being everywhere received with an enthusiastic welcome.

394. What was the next great event ?

The outbreak of civil war in the United States. The Southern States, having been for some time discontented, at last, in 1861, seceded from the Union, elected Jefferson Davis their President, made Richmond, in Virginia, their capital ; and for four years, under the name of the Southern Confederacy, maintained themselves against the attacks of the Federal government. During this melancholy war, both sides showed the most determined valor, but the Southern coasts being blockaded by the Federal fleet, and thus shut out from help or supplies from abroad, the Confederacy at last succumbed in the summer of 1865.

395. How did this war affect England ?

British sentiment was divided as to the merits of the quarrel, but the Southerners were recognized as belligerents, and managed to obtain some famous privateers from British builders, which severely damaged Northern commerce; while the stoppage of the supplies of cotton, the great staple of the Southern States, caused sad distress in the cotton districts of Lancashire.

396. What were the final issues of the war ?

Davis was taken prisoner, Lee, the Southern general, surrendered to Grant, the commander of the Federal armies, and the Southern States were placed under military occupation. President Lincoln, just after having beheld the successful restoration of Northern supremacy, was foully assassinated; and slavery was abolished in the United States. Both sides had made fearful sacrifices in men and money, from which they are still suffering, but things are now gradually mending, and peace and order being restored. The most recent effect of the war is the elevation of its chief hero, General Grant, to the Presidency of the neighboring Republic.

397. What other events marked the year 1865 ?

The failure of a second attempt to lay down a submarine telegraph across the Atlantic. (The first attempt had been made in 1858.) A third trial, however, in 1866, was successful, and this great triumph of science is now complete. Also a project for a Confederation of the Provinces of British North America.

398. Did this project succeed ?

Yes; though not completely. After exciting political contests in the different colonies, a Legislative Union was effected between old Canada and the lower Provinces (except Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland),* to date from July 1st, 1867. The city of Ottawa was chosen as the capital of the new Confederation, called the "Dominion of Canada." Means were also taken to secure a union of commercial interests as well as of legislatures, by the construction of an Intercolonial railroad, to run through New Brunswick, and thus connect the Grand Trunk railway of Canada with the seaboard at Halifax, N. S.

* Newfoundland has now joined the Union of the Provinces.

399. What important events in Europe signalized the year 1866?

A great civil war in Germany caused by the question of the right of Denmark to Sleswick Holstein. Austria at first acted with Prussia, but finding this latter power act with insulting arrogance, she took hostile ground. The war was decided in a short but most disastrous campaign which lasted less than a month. Austria was utterly humbled at the battle of Sadowna, in Bohemia, in consequence of the Prussian troops having been armed with that terrific weapon, the new breech-loading "needle gun," and ceased to be the leading power in Germany. The small principalities were merged in one great State reaching from the Maine to the Baltic, called the North German Confederation. The different States of Italy had in like manner been consolidated under Victor Emmanuel, King of Sardinia, in 1859. The new kingdom of Italy acted in alliance with Prussia in this war, receiving as its reward the province of Venetia. Thus Austrian ascendancy was destroyed both in Germany and Italy. While on this subject of European revolutions, we may mention that in Spain in 1868, in which the despotic rule of queen Isabella has been overthrown; but the future government of that country has not yet been determined.

400. What are the most recent topics of interest in England?

1st. The expedition to Abyssinia to chastise the barbarian acts of its pretended king Theodore, which ended successfully in the storming of his mountain fortress of Magdala by Sir Robert Napier at the head of a part of the Indian army.

2nd. The great extension of the franchise by the Reform Bill of 1868; and

3rd. The recent elections, which have displaced the Conservative ministry of Derby and Disraeli by a Liberal majority under Gladstone, pledged to dis-establish and dis-endow the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland.

401. Have the social events of the reign been of equal importance to its political movements?

Fully so. Some of them have been mentioned, but the limits of this little book would fail to contain all. The civilized world has been covered with railways, canals, telegraph

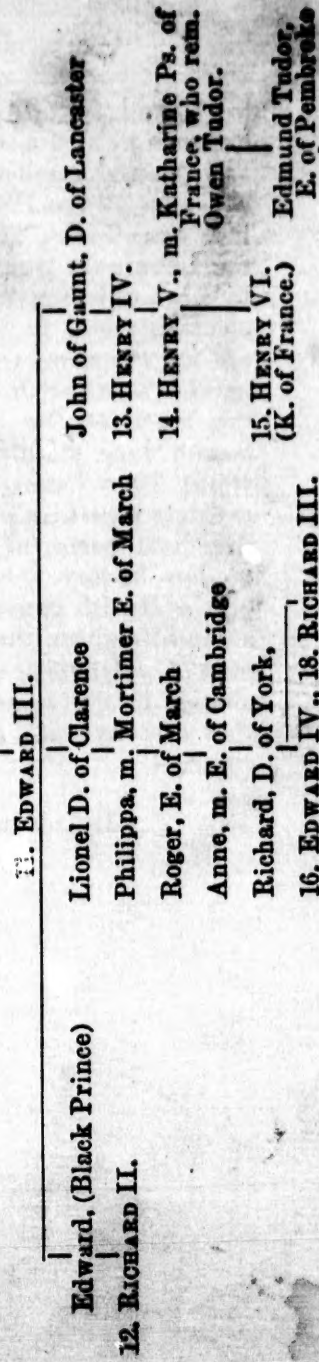
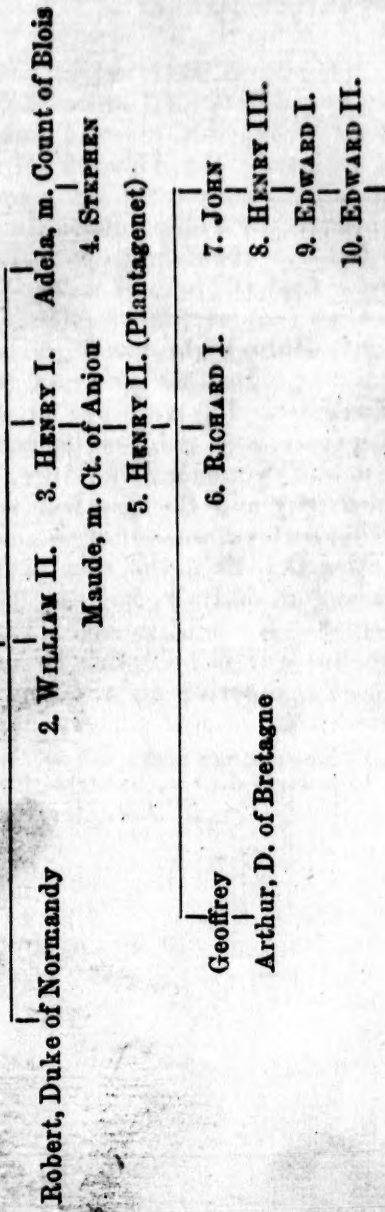
lines, and factories; the ocean traversed in all its wide expanse by steam; the vast deserts of Central Asia, Africa, and Australia crossed; the heavens mapped out; the icy solitudes of the Poles explored; the Alps are being tunneled, the Rocky Mountains surmounted by railways, and the Isthmus of Suez threaded by a ship canal; the secrets of nature are being revealed—in chemistry, optics, astronomy, electricity and biology. And all these wondrous triumphs are for the many; not, as formerly, for the few. A cheap press brings the thoughts of the highest and greatest within the reach of the humblest. In this progress the Anglo-Saxon race stands foremost. Its language is spoken by about 70 millions of people, and confessedly contains the greatest treasures of ancient or modern literature. It forms the most powerful monarchy and the greatest republic of modern history. And no better commendation can be given of the British constitution than that the new States which arise—Belgium, the kingdom of Italy, and the North German Confederation—make it their model. War might change this prosperity, but war is becoming so destructive that nations stand aghast at entering on it. And even if it come,—

“Nought can make us rue,
If England to herself do rest but true.”

K. John, Act V., S. 7.

DESCENT OF THE ENGLISH MONARCHS.

CONTRACTIONS—*D. Duke; P. Prince; Pa. Princess; E. Earl; m. married; rem. remarried; K. King; Q. Queen; C. Count.*
 1. WILLIAM I.



15. HENRY VI.
(K. of France.) Edmund Tudor.
E. of Pembroke

16. EDWARD IV., 18. RICHARD III.

17. EDWARD V. Richard, D. of York Elizabeth, m. 19. HENRY VII.

22. MARY 23. ELIZABETH 20. HENRY VIII., Margaret,
m. Jas. IV. of Scotland
21. EDWARD VI. JAMES
MARY
Q. of Scots.

24. JAMES I., (K. of G. Britain)

Henry, P. of Wales

25. CHARLES I.

Elizabeth, m. Frederic, Elector Palatine

26. CHARLES II.

Mary, m. William, P. of Orange 27. JAMES II.

Sophia, m. Elector of Hanover

28. WILLIAM III., m. MARY II., 29. ANNE James, (Old Pretender)
(and Stadtholder of Holl'd.) Charles Edward, (Young Pret'dr.)

30. GEORGE I. (and Elector of Hanover)

31. GEORGE II.

Frederic, P. of Wales

William, D. of Cumberland

32. GEORGE III.

33. GEORGE IV., Frederic, D. of York

34. WILLIAM IV., Edward, D. of Kent

Ernest, K. of Hanover
Adolphus, D. of Cambridge

35. VICTORIA, m. Albert of Saxe Gotha

Victoria (Pr'ss Royal). Alice, Alfred, D. Helena. Louisa. Arthur. Leopold. Beatrice.
m. P. of Prussia P. of Wales of Edinburgh

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